

P 011512Z DEC 95
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8482
INFO AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LUANDA
USLO ABUJA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY HARARE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 006513

DEPT FOR AF/W AND AF/S

LONDON FOR YOUNG

PRETORIA PLEASE PASS TO AF/S DIRECTOR BLANEY AND CARTER-PERRY

E.O. 12958: 11/28/05

TAGS: [PREL](#) [BC](#) [NI](#) [SF](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA -- NOT SADC -- TO TAKE THE LEAD ON NIGERIA

REF: GABORONE 6465

CLASSIFIED BY: HOWARD F. JETER, AMBASSADOR

REASON: 1.5(B)

¶1. CONTRARY TO WHAT PRESIDENT MASIRE'S PRIVATE SECRETARY TOLD US LAST WEEK, LOUIS SELEPENG, PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, CONFIDED TO THE AMBASSADOR 11/30 THAT PRESIDENT MASIRE HAD DECLINED, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY, TO CALL A MEETING OF SADC HEADS OF STATE, TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN STRATEGY ON NIGERIA.

¶2. SELEPENG SAID THAT BOTSWANA MAINTAINED THAT THE QUESTION OF NIGERIA WAS NOT A SADC ISSUE (I.E., THERE WAS NO DIRECT CORRELATION BETWEEN THE UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENTS IN NIGERIA AND SADC AS A CORPORATE REGIONAL BODY), AND PRESIDENT MANDELA HAD AGREED. THEREFORE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT PRESIDENT MANDELA WOULD CALL A MEETING OF REGIONAL LEADERS TO CONSIDER THE NIGERIA QUESTION, AND WOULD DO SO IN HIS CAPACITY AS SOUTH AFRICA'S PRESIDENT BUT NOT IN THE NAME OF SADC. SELEPENG NOTED THAT THE MANDELA-CALLED MEETING WOULD LIKELY TAKE PLACE IN PRETORIA.

¶3. SELEPENG SAID THAT PRESIDENT MASIRE WAS PREPARED TO ATTEND THE MEETING AT ANY TIME FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE GCA MEETING IN HOLLAND. MASIRE RETURNED TO BOTSWANA YESTERDAY, NOVEMBER 30.

¶4. FOR BLANEY AND CARTER-PERRY: NIGERIA WILL INEVITABLY TURN UP DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT MASIRE. THE VP SHOULD BE WELL BRIEFED.

JETER